

CENSUS REPORT

**1941 MYSORE
POPULATION
EDITION**

**P. H. KRISHNA
RAO**

S. L. S.

MYSORE



CENSUS REPORT 1941

P. H. Krishna Rao, M.A.,

MYSORE CIVIL SERVICE

CENSUS SUPERINTENDENT



POPULAR EDITION

FOREWORD BY

M.W.W.M. YEATTS C.I.E., I.C.S.

CENSUS COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA

"I look upon this ceremony of ascending the Throne of my ancestors as a dedication of myself, my life and all I have to the service of the people of Mysore."

JAYA CHAMARAJA WADIYAR

8th September 1940.



HIS HIGHNESS SRI JAYACHAMARAJA WADIYAR BAHADUR, MAHARAJA OF MYSORE

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P. H. Krishna Rao, M.A.,
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PREFACE

THIS POPULAR EDITION of the Census Report has been brought out in response to the public demand for a book at a price within the reach of all. It differs in no way from the Report in the STANDARD EDITION, and contains all the matter, except the Appendices which are either too technical or are intended for those who want to know more details about particular subjects. This volume, it will be observed, is self-contained—the Tables at the end giving all the essential statistics—and obviates the necessity for referring to the Imperial or other Tables. The attention of the student who desires greater details is, however, invited in the appropriate places to the relevant Tables appearing in Volumes II, IV and V of the Census Report published separately. Many maps and diagrams have been included to elucidate and amplify the Report. No pains have been spared to make the Report as interesting as possible to the layman; and its brevity may be a recommendation. The photographs, it is hoped, will be an added attraction. I shall be satisfied if this volume will help the reader to understand Mysore better and induce every Mysorean to do his little bit to improve the country in every respect.

P. H. KRISHNA RAO

FOREWORD

OUT of my team of about thirty census officers, Mr. Krishna Rao was almost the first I met and with whom I was able to have full discussions and I recall how quickly the rail journey between Bangalore and Mysore seemed to pass—although that is not a line of record beaters.

Thus he was one of the first to hear my plans for the 1941 census, as he has been one of the most assiduous and efficient in applying them; and it is therefore only appropriate that I should offer a brief FOREWORD to this venture which represents a direct expression of these purposes.

And my first comment is to express my appreciation of the trouble he has taken to give effect to these purposes which I put before my census team. In this elegant book he has tried to take the State in a single view, to bring out the salient points and also continuities, and above all, to make

accessible a picture of this famous and important unit of India as an organism rather than as a statistical item. Illustrations, get-up, references, format, everything make this a book of which it might be said that it combines basic information with the qualities which in Sir Philip Sidney's words 'keep children from play and old men from the chimney corner'. Too long statistical productions have been regarded as something inevitably indigestible without apparent effort

to produce palatability. Mr. Krishna Rao has shown that the two are not incompatible.

The All-India Census is one of this country's most remarkable achievements, meriting in every sense that much abused adjective

"*unique*"; for there is nothing like it anywhere else. Nowhere has a population of such magnitude been the subject of a regular ten-yearly count going back now seventy years; and nowhere is the counting done, by and large, by the people themselves without pay. This astonishing feat is greatly to the credit of India and represents from one point of view a most advanced position in which the people themselves carry by judicious distribution of effort an important social duty on which the administration of their country to a large extent depends. People are apt to be dazzled by size and we know the point of view that feels that a



MR. M. W. W. M. YEATTS, C.I.E., I.C.S.,
Census Commissioner for India.

census costing forty million dollars must be a better thing than something which costs half a crore of rupees, or say 1/25. That is the ratio between the American and the Indian censuses. But cost or size is not a final criterion in administrative any more than it is in human relations and there seems to be some thing of great and precious significance in the largely, unconscious principle which so far has governed the Indian census, namely, that it is a big show for a not very

wealthy country and that therefore the job is distributed, everyone taking his appropriate share; with the result that one-fifth of the population of the world is enumerated at a cost of something like nine rupees a thousand, all in. I would like to see this realised by everyone, first because of the tribute it conveys to the people of India and second, so that the people of India will not through incuria let so distinguished a system perish. For do not mistake; nothing is proof against neglect, and administrative machinery is very like factory machinery in that sense.

Consequently, since the citizen plays so great a role in any census inasmuch as it is his answers which are recorded; since moreover, as compared with other countries, he plays a far greater part in India where he furnishes unpaid the great mass of the enumerators and supervising staff; it follows that to make the most of this great endeavour the citizen must play up to his part. The democratic tradition requires some comprehension by the citizen of how he is governed; and that comprehension requires understanding of the information on which the government proceeds and of the citizen's part in providing it. In the ideal democratic polity, every citizen would be an observer in the scientific sense and the daily processes of his life would throw up in a regular sequence the information which, when cast into appropriate form, presents his government with the facts it needs. In such a polity he is in fact part of the government. Exactly how much, will

vary with the nature of that government itself, but there is, to use scientific language, a critical minimum below which he cannot go if a true democratic polity is to exist. It is one of the contradictions of the modern world that the advance of science, knowledge and processes can lead to a greater participation by the citizen but so far has seemed to tend to a less; with the outcome of totalitarian regimes and our present misfortunes. The active mind is like the oxygen which provides the proper atmosphere for life; it is a pre-requisite for persistence of the democratic idea. It is not necessary for a hundred per cent of the people to think for themselves and act on their thoughts. The bulk of mankind is not qualified for that. But if the requisite proportion does, their influence makes the atmosphere wholesome. If it does not, then democracy will sicken and ultimately die.

And so I am glad to see a POPULAR EDITION of the Census Report going out; for the nearer the ordinary citizen can get to an understanding of the processes on which administration is based, the better for all of us. For the best achievement follows from thought acting on knowledge and understanding, and the more we can put the citizen on the road to the last points, the better are the prospects for the kind of achievement in mind. "More light" is a good motto—particularly in a world darkened mentally as well as in some parts physically by war.

M. W. W. M. YEATTS

PARA	PAGE	PARA	PAGE
COMPOSITION—	14—19	LANGUAGE— <i>concl.</i>	
<i>Birthplace—</i>	14—16	99 Hindustani	
67 Birthplace		100 Tamil	
68 Born outside India		101 Comparative growth	
69 Born in India—in (a) Provinces ad- joining Mysore		102 Marathi	
70 In (b) Other Provinces in India		103 Banajari	
71 Internal migration		104 Tulu and Konkani	
72 Immigration into Malnad and Semi- malnad		105 Malayalam and Hindi	
73 Immigration into Cities		106 Other languages	
74 Emigration			
<i>Sex Ratio—</i>	16—18	EDUCATION AND CULTURE	24—31
75 Sex ratio by communities		LITERACY—	24—26
76 Sex ratio by regions		107 Relative position of Mysore in literacy	
77 Significance of the sex ratio		108 Literacy by Communities	
78 Sex ratio by age		109 Literacy—Urban and Rural	
<i>Age Composition—</i>	18	110 Effect of occupation and tradition on literacy	
79 Age composition in 1931 and 1941 compared		111 Literacy in English	
<i>Civil Condition—</i>	18—19	112 Progress of literacy	
80 Civil condition		EDUCATION—	26—29
<i>Fertility—</i>	19—20	113 Expenditure on Education	
81 Rate of reproduction		114 Increase in expenditure due to change in the policy of Government	
82 Average number of children born per married woman		115 Communities other than Brahmin still not keen on higher education	
83 Age of mother at birth of first child		116 Wastage in education	
84 Largest number of children born in completed fertility cases		117 Primary education	
85 Largest number of Children surviving		118 Villages with and without schools	
COMMUNITY AND CASTE	20—22	119 Remedies—(a) Self-help in primary education, (b) levy of fees	
MAIN COMMUNITIES—	20—21	120 Female literacy	
86 Main communities		121 Effect of progress in women's educa- tion	
87 General growth		122 Libraries and Reading rooms	
88 Distribution—Urban and Rural		123 Adult education	
89 Distribution by Districts and Cities		124 Need for literacy drive among large Hindu Castes with low literacy	
90 Taluks and Towns with large Muslim and Christian populations		CULTURE—	29—31
CASTES—	21—22	125 People's culture	
91 Castes		126 Cultural life in rural parts	
92 Hindu Castes		127 Development of the Kannada language	
93 Caste distribution in Cities and Dis- tricts		128 Kannada Literary Academy	
94 Origin of Castes diverse		129 Modern Writers in Kannada	
LANGUAGE	22—24	130 Art	
95 Language		131 Encouragement by Krishnaraja Wadi- yar IV	
96 The Kannada Country		132 Painting, Sculpture and Architecture	
97 Neighbouring languages		133 Aesthetic life of the people	
98 Telugu		134 Character of the people	
		ECONOMIC AND OCCUPATIONAL	32—47
		135 What the Census does and does not	
		136 Whether the Optimum population has been reached in Mysore	

PARA	PAGE	PARA	PAGE
CONCLUSION.— <i>concl'd.</i>		CONCLUSION.— <i>concl'd.</i>	
204	Need for restoring cultural life in the villages	207	Effect of illiteracy on the Co-operative movement
205	Effect of the foreign element in the population	208	Unity in diversity—the watchword of His late Highness
206	Some suggestions for improving literacy and economic conditions in villages	209	His inspiring Message
		210	Our present Maharaja

TABLES

TABLE	PAGE	TABLE	PAGE
GENERAL DESCRIPTION		DISTRIBUTION—	
THE COUNTRY—		17	Rural and Urban population, 1881 and 1941 61
1	Area, Population and Density of Mysore compared with some States and Provinces 53	18	Rural and Urban population by Districts—1941 61
POPULATION		19	Growth of Cities since 1881 61
VARIATION—		20	Urban and Rural distribution by communities 61
2	Growth of Population of Districts and Cities from 1881-1941 53	AMENITIES IN TOWNS—	
3	Population, 1941 and variation since 1931—(all figures are in thousands) 54	21	Town Improvement and Water-supply Grants sanctioned to the Municipalities from 1930-31 to 1940-41 62
4	Variation in population in the Malnad, Semi-Malnad and Maidan portions of Hassan, Kadur and Shimoga Districts—Urban and Rural 55	22	Growth of Towns with a population of 10,000 and above 63
REGIONS OF DECLINE—		23	Growth of places with a population between 5,000 and 10,000 63
5	Number of villages in canal areas in the Mysore and Mandya Districts, showing the variation in population between 1931 and 1941 56	24	Growth of towns with a population below 5,000—(i) Taluk Headquarter Towns and (ii) other Towns 63-64
6	Large irrigation works which have affected the population of villages in the Shimoga, Tumkur and Chitaldrug Districts 56	DENSITY—	
7	Villages under large irrigation works where population has declined 57	25	Density by Districts—Rural and Urban 64
8	List of villages within a radius of 5 miles from Bhadravati 58	26	Area and population of taluks classified according to density 65
VITAL STATISTICS—		COMPOSITION—	
9	Statistics of Births and Deaths in Districts and Cities—1931-40 58	<i>Birthplace—</i>	
10	Mortality and morbidity rates 59	27	Persons born outside India and found in Cities and other parts of the State 66
11	Deaths from malaria 59	28	Persons born in India, Burma and Ceylon—1921-1941 66
12	Average area and population served by each hospital or dispensary in Mysore and in some other Provinces 59	29	Natural and immigrant population in districts and cities 67
13	Expenditure in the State on medical relief 59	30	Natural and immigrant population in the Malnad, Semi-Malnad and Maidan areas 67
14	Specific death rates from some important diseases 60	31	Immigrants into Cities 68
15	Specific death rates 60	<i>Sex Ratio—</i>	
16	Maternal mortality rates 60	32	Taluks in which females preponderate 69
		33	Number of females per 1,000 males 69
		34	Proportion of females per 1,000 males in the Cities of Mysore compared with some Cities in India 69

TABLE	PAGE	TABLE	PAGE
<i>Age Composition—</i>			
35 Civil condition and ratio of children, adults and old persons in the population of 1931 and 1941	70	ECONOMIC AND OCCUPATIONAL	
36 Expectation of life, Mysore State, 1941	70	OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION—	
<i>Civil Condition—</i>			
37 Age and Civil condition	71—75	61 Occupational distribution of the population	91—93
38 Age and Sex	76—77	62 Occupational distribution of the population in 1941 compared with 1931	94
COMMUNITY AND CASTE			
MAIN COMMUNITIES—			
39 Growth of main communities since 1881	78	AGRICULTURE—	
40 Proportion of the main communities per 10,000 of the population	78	63 Statement showing the area occupied and area cropped and not cropped from 1881 to 1938-39	95
41 Distribution of main communities	78	64 Area under food crops	95
42 Distribution of the Christian population—Urban and Rural	79	65 Area under principal food and non-food crops—1910-11 to 1937-38	95
43 Christian population in Towns and Cities	79	66 Names of Tanks costing about or over a lakh of rupees each or irrigating 1,000 or more acres in the several Districts of the State	96
44 Muslim population in Towns and Cities	79	67 List of channels drawn from rivers—Mysore State	97—98
45 Indian Christian population by Taluks, including Towns	80	68 Irrigated area	99
46 Muslim population by Taluks, including Towns	80	69 Cropped area and the area under food crops in Malnad Taluks from 1920-21 to 1938-39	99
CASTES—			
47 Distribution of Christians in Districts, excluding Cities	80	70 Cropped area and the area under food crops in Semi-Malnad Taluks from 1920-21 to 1938-39	100
48 Distribution of Castes by rank	81	71 Cropped area and the area under food crops by Districts from 1910-11 to 1939-40	101
LANGUAGE			
49 Composition of population by mother tongue	82	TRADE—	
50 Distribution of Muslims by mother tongue	83	72 Exports and Imports from 1901-02 to 1938-39	102
51 Adikarnataka and Adidravida population in Cities by language and literacy	84	73 Statistics of Agricultural stock in the State as per quinquennial Census	102
52 Variation in mother tongue—comparative growth	84	INDUSTRY—	
EDUCATION AND CULTURE			
LITERACY—			
53 Percentage of literates to total population in States and Provinces—1931 and 1941	84	74 Classification of Industries showing the number of Establishments and number of persons Employed in each Industry	103
54 Urban and Rural literacy by community and sex	85	75 Rural and Cottage Industries—general	104
55 Literacy by sex and main community	86	76 Statement showing the Khadi activity in the State for the year 1940-41	105
55A Population and literacy by caste	87	77 Mulberry cultivation at the end of December 1941	105
56 Progress of literacy	88	78 Industrial employees by community, birth place, mother tongue, etc.	106
EDUCATION—			
57 Expenditure on Education	88	79 Rural and Cottage Industries—special	107
58 Number of Public and Private Institutions in the State and the number of pupils from the year 1885-86 to 1939-40	89	80 Industries practised both in industrial establishments and in cottages	108
59 Number of pupils in several schools and colleges by communities	89	81 Persons engaged in gainful occupations	108
60 Number of passes in the University Examinations by communities	90	TRANSPORT—	
		82 Development of Railways	108
		83 Development of Roads	109
		84 List of Bridges constructed during the last decade—(1931-41)	109

TABLE	PAGE	TABLE	PAGE
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND LIBERAL ARTS—			
85 Communal representation in the Services	110	87 Working of the Mysore Life Insurance scheme—1924-40	111
GENERAL—			
86 Results of the working of the Income-tax Act in the State—1920-21 to 1939-40	111	88 Deposits	112
		89 Structures classified by nature of roof	112
		90 Unemployment by locality	113
		91 Educated unemployment	113

LIST OF MAPS, DIAGRAMS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

MAPS	FACING PAGE	PHOTOGRAPHS	FACING PAGE
1. Historical Map	2	1. His Highness Sri Jayachamaraja Wadiyar	— <i>Frontispiece</i>
2. Rainfall by Regions	6	2. Mr. M. W. W. M. Yeatts, Census Commissioner for India	ii
3. Forest Belts	7	3. His Highness Sri Krishnaraja Wadiyar—	x
4. Density by Taluks	8	4. The Palace, Mysore	xiv
5. Growth of Population since 1881	9	5. The Palace, Bangalore	xiv
6. The Canal Areas in Mysore and Mandya Districts	10	6. Public Offices, Cubbon Park, Bangalore	1
7. Malaria Map	11	7. The Brindavan Gardens	1
8. Distribution of Muslim Population	20	8. <i>Pradhanasiromani</i> N. Madhava Rao (Dewan)	4
9. Distribution of Indian Christian Population	21	9. C. Rangacharlu	5
10. Distribution of Castes	22	10. <i>Rajyadharandhara</i> Sir K. Seshadri Iyer	5
11. Karnataka Map	23	11. Sir M. Visvesvaraya	5
12. Map of Indian Languages	23	12. Sir Mirza M. Ismail	5
13. Language Map of Mysore	24	13. Vani Vilas Hospital for Women and Children, Bangalore.	12
14. Extent of Cultivable, Irrigated and Cropped Land	32	14. Mental Hospital, Bangalore	26
15. Principal Crops and their Regions	34	15. Panel of Temple at Somanathapur	27
16. Distribution of Non-Food Crops	36	16. Daria Dowlat, Seringapatam	28
DIAGRAMS			
1. Age Pyramid	16	17. Public Durbar Hall, Mysore Palace	29
2. Comparative rates of mortality	18	18. Private Durbar Hall, Mysore Palace	29
3. Distribution of occupations in the State	44	19. Matriculation Class, Central College (1863)	30
4. Distribution of earners by occupation in each Class of Towns	45	20. Bangalore Intermediate College Group (1941)	30
5. Irrigated area and Area under Sugarcane in the Irwin Canal Area	37	21. Orchestra, Maharani's College, Mysore (1901)	31
		22. Orchestra, Maharani's College, Bangalore (1941)	31
		23. Census Superintendent, Mysore	51

" His late Highness the Maharaja of Mysore was a personality whose accomplishments would have won distinction in any walk of life. As a Ruler, the manner in which he discharged the responsibilities of his great position, his close interest in the welfare of his subjects, his zeal for progress, for the advancement of justice, for the development of a higher sense of civic duty, and the simplicity of his mode of life, all of them impressed deeply those of us who had the privilege of his friendship and who had been able to see him in his own State ; and the example which he set enhanced the prestige of the Princely Order not only in this country but far beyond its borders. "

— LORD LINLITHGOW.



HIS HIGHNESS SRI KRISHNARAJA WADIYAR BAHADUR, G.C.S.I., G.B.E.,
MAHARAJA OF MYSORE (1902-1940)

INTRODUCTION

THIS Census was taken on 1st March 1941. The numerous enquiries that were received during the Census operations indicated two things—the growing interest that the intelligentsia are taking in the collection of statistics, and the very general desire that opportunity should be taken of the Census that comes only once in ten years, to gather as much reliable data as possible. Among the innovations introduced in this Census to meet this desire may be mentioned: (1) the taking of a Census of Industrial Employment in the State, (2) a survey of the house-room available for each family in urban areas, (3) ascertaining the number of cattle and their distribution in the two Cities of Mysore and Bangalore, (4) a Census of beggars in the same two Cities, (5) the inclusion of a linguistic map of the territories where *Kannada* is the principal mother-tongue, (6) the amplification of the Village Tables to show the number of persons vaccinated and literate; and the medical, educational and drinking water facilities in each village, and (7) the addition of tables to show the distribution of the population in each town according to literacy, caste, occupation and cottage industries.

The four Cities are also dealt with separately for the first time in Appendix I in which are also incorporated the results of the survey of the housing conditions and of the cattle census. The report on the census of beggars is printed as Appendix II, and the report on the census of Industrial Establishments as Appendix VI. The taking of an Economic Census as part of the general Census was considered and given up as it was thought that an economic survey of individual wealth and individual income may wait until we have a fairly reliable estimate of the wealth and income of the community as a whole. Government, however, ordered the Economic Survey of about 260 representative villages all over the State. The results of the population Census are studied in the meanwhile against a historical and economic background on the data already available.

These data are contained in the second edition of the *Mysore Gazetteer* by Lewis Rice, where statistics are brought up to 1895; the revised edition of the *Gazetteer* by *Rajacharita Visarada Rao Bahadur C. Hayavadana Rao*, bringing the facts up to 1924; the Statistical Abstracts of Mysore published in 1915, 1921 and 1926; the available Season and Crop Reports; the Reviews of the Foreign Rail-borne Trade of Mysore and other publications of the Industries and Commerce Department; and the annual Administration Reports of other Departments. The statistics in a collected form are available only up to 1923-24, both in the *Gazetteer* and

in the Abstracts, and it is necessary that these should be brought up-to-date. I have had to address the several Heads of Departments, therefore, to give me annual figures up to 1940. I should like to acknowledge here my indebtedness to them for having readily complied with my requests.

The statistical needs of a progressive country like Mysore are ever expanding. Hence it was that the statistics in the Abstract for 1915 were found inadequate in 1921 and 1926. I find that these statistics, too, have to be amplified further to serve our present-day needs. Information, even approximately correct, is not available for instance, about agricultural and industrial production. It is time that effective steps are taken to remedy this grave defect if we want to have a comprehensive policy, a plan, and an organisation for the development of the country. It would be necessary to have, as in all progressive countries, a permanent statistical department to determine the kind of statistics that would be required by the student and the administrator in an ever-changing world, to collect them from the several departments of Government and other sources, and check and compile them, and bring out an annual publication in the quickest possible time after the close of the year. Even the taking of the population Census once in ten years may well be made part of the duties of this permanent department and it may be possible, ultimately, with the help of such a permanent organisation, even to dispense with the taking of the decennial Census, as it would be part of its duties to keep the population figures up-to-date from year to year. The belated publication of statistical information, by different departments—in many cases irreconcilable—at long and uncertain intervals, is not very useful.

In the absence of such an organization, the Census would be a very good opportunity for taking stock of a country's progress. The establishment of a settled Government in the country from 1831; the development of communications and the improvement of tanks between 1831 and 1881; the stabilisation of the Gold Mining Industry in 1891; the inauguration of the Hydro-electric Scheme in 1901; the Krishnarajasagara, the Iron Works, the Mysore Bank, the Mysore University, the Economic Conference, the departments of Agriculture, and Industries and Commerce, the Village Improvement Scheme—all of which came into being between the years 1911-1921; world events like the Great War of 1914-1918; the industrial policy of our Government and the improvement of Towns and Cities in recent years; the policy of economic self-sufficiency

pursued by some of the nations, with the five-year and ten-year plans consequent on such policies; the post-war boom and the great depression that set in after 1931—, have all affected as much, if not more the prosperity and efficiency of our population, as the Great Famine of 1877-78 or the First Plague of 1898-99 or the Influenza of 1919 affected its growth and distribution. The Census Report cannot take the one into account and leave the other out. The rapid development of communications has made of the whole world one country from an economic point of view, in spite of political and economic barriers, and the great cataclysm we are going through may itself be a stage in the evolution of a world state. Some aspects of the development in Mysore have had to be considered therefore in an All-India setting, and this Census Report describes not only the growth and distribution of the population, but the progress the country has made since 1881—the year which marked the Rendition of the State to Indian Rule—in developing its resources and in improving the health, education and efficiency of the people: This, I am aware, is a new orientation of the object of the Census; but I hope the results would justify the change in the method of presentation.

In accordance with this plan, there is first a general description of the country, its people and history; the body of the Report records the growth, distribution and composition of the population and deals in detail with the progress—social, economic and cultural—made by the population from 1881 to 1941, but with particular reference to the last decade; and the *resümé* records the conclusions drawn from discussions in the Report and suggests certain remedies.

This procedure has entailed much more labour than I anticipated. I have had to consider the whole Report in perspective, bring a sense of proportion to bear on the several subjects dealt with, and endeavour to make of it an organic whole so that it may flow from paragraph to paragraph and section to section in a way to interest not only the expert and the student of statistics but the layman who is interested in the country. With the same end in view, I have not burdened the report with too many tables or with too many explanations or comments on tables; and even the few tables that were found necessary have been relegated to the end of the Report, so that the continuity of the *Essay* may not be broken. I have also tried to make the Report as brief as possible so as not to tire the reader; but I have provided maps and diagrams where it was thought they would be more helpful than lengthy descriptions. The more studious reader will find ample material for study in the usual tables which are published separately in Parts II, IV and V of the Report.

It has been my endeavour to be objective in my approach to the subject, and I have therefore avoided, as far as possible, obtruding my personal views. But where I have had to express them, I need hardly say,

that they are mine and that they in no way commit Government to them. The experience gained as a member of the Mysore Civil Service in practically all the Departments of Government and in all the Districts of the State stood me in good stead in my Census work. The most valuable part of this experience, I consider, was the contact I established with officials and non-officials alike. This gave a personal touch to our relationship as Census Officers; and the demands that I made for much additional information during this Census were most willingly met not only by the Heads of Departments, Deputy Commissioners and other Officers of Government, but by school masters, village officials and non-official gentlemen who, as Enumerators and Supervisors, gave readily of their voluntary service. The success of the Census is, in a large measure, due to their co-operation. Especially valuable was the Economic Survey. It took me to the remotest villages and brought me into touch with the every-day life of the villager. This work would have been impossible but for the spirit of service which was evinced by the Investigator. Deputy Commissioners took particular care to choose only such villages as had intelligent, enthusiastic and influential Investigators and I must say that the Investigators have mostly justified their selection.

I have studiously abstained from making any comments which may savour of politics, but I have considered it as part of my duty to present statistics which have a bearing on political problems. Readers will no doubt draw their own conclusions, while perusing the paragraphs on the economic conditions in Mysore, as to how far they are bound up with the destinies of India, and how these in turn, are affected by the industrial and financial policy,—including exchange, currency, and customs,—of the Government of India and the British Government. Much of what I have discussed may appear to be obsolete, considering the speed at which events are moving in the world. There have been instances of even high-paid officials belittling the idea of writing such a thing as a Census Report in these days when the most vital issues are at stake. But this Government has proceeded with the task on hand in the firm belief that, whatever happens, the Census Report will, at least, serve as a true picture of the conditions existing in 1941.

The books that I have consulted in the preparation of this Report are given in a Bibliography at the end. I must acknowledge my indebtedness particularly to the inspiring speeches of the late Maharaja with their judicious advice and admonition to his subjects, and to the speeches of Sir. M. Visvesvaraya and Sir Mirza M. Ismail, permeated with a high sense of patriotism. I have drawn largely on the *Mysore Gazetteer* both by Mr. Rice and by Mr. Hayavadana Rao, for the general description and the historical background, on the statistics published by the Government in the Statistical Abstracts and on the Administration Reports of the several Departments. *Social Service in India—*

an introduction to some social and economic problems of the Indian People—edited by Sir Edward Blunt and published by His Majesty's Stationery Office, London, has been of very great help to me in presenting my Report in the proper Indian setting. The Chapters contributed by Major-General Sir John Megaw on Medicine and Public Health, by Sir George Anderson on Education and by Sir Frank Noyce on Industries, have been specially helpful. Other books that I have found of considerable help are *The Population Problem* as discussed by T. H. Marshall, Prof. A. M. Carr-Saunders, H. D. Henderson, R. R. Kuczynski and Prof. Arnold Plant, published by George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., and *India's Teeming Millions* by Prof. Gyan Chand, Professor of Economics, Patna University.

I have been very ably assisted in my task by my two Assistants Mr. S. Nagappa and Mr. T. Shamanna. Mr. S. Nagappa was one of the Assistants in the last Census and his past experience was of great help in organising the Census Office and the Census operations. He brought to bear upon his work not only his knowledge but a willing enthusiasm and a painstaking industry which went thoroughly into every detail. I am glad Mr. T. Shamanna was selected as the Second Assistant. He is young, energetic and intelligent and has shown a keen desire to master the intricacies of the Census. He will serve as a very good link between this Census and the next and I have no doubt that the experience he has gained now, coupled with his initiative, will make him a good Census Officer. My establishment worked with commendable zeal and industry throughout. Mr. R. M. Vancheswara Iyer, B.A., my Office Manager, conducted the work of the office very efficiently and evinced a great deal of interest in the Census work in all its branches. Mr. K. Sitarama Rao, my steno-typist, bore the brunt of typing work and assisted me in the preparation of notes and drafts of reports. Mr. H. A. Subramanya Sastri, B.Sc., Head Clerk of the Abstraction Office and Mr. V. Seshachar, B.A., Accountant, Central Office, discharged their strenuous duties ungrudgingly. Mr. G. Nanjundiah, B.A., Inspector, whom I selected on account of his past experience of Census work, amply justified my selection by his unostentatious and steady good work. He supervised sorting, compilation and printing work and his

skilful management of the printing of Census Tables resulted in appreciable economy. Mr. V. C. Simon, one of the Compilers, prepared the maps and diagrams to my entire satisfaction. All the Supervisors and Compilers did good work and the excellent work turned out by Messrs. K. Gururayachar, B.A., K. H. Srinivasa Murthy, M.Sc. and M. Madhava Rao, B.Sc. (Hons.), deserves special mention. I am equally sensible of the good work of the other officials both of the Central and of the Abstraction Offices.

I must thank *Rajasevasukta* B. M. Srikantia, M.A., B.L., Professor of English and Kannada (retired), University of Mysore, who has contributed a note on the development of Kannada Literature, printed as Appendix V; Mr. K. B. Madhava, M.A., F.R.A.S., A.I.A. (Lond.), Professor of Mathematical Economics and Statistics, Maharaja's College, Mysore, who has contributed a note on Fertility Statistics, published as Appendix III; and Mr. E. R. Sundararajan, M.A., Superintendent, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Department of Public Health, for his note on the Expectation of Life in Mysore (Appendix IV).

The printing work connected with the Census was all done in the Government Press and I highly appreciate the keen interest evinced and the special efforts made by the Superintendent, Mr. B. Krishnaswamy Chetty, in getting through the large volume of work expeditiously and well. Mr. B. Gopala Iyengar, the Sub-Assistant Superintendent, who was in direct charge of the work bore our hustling with commendable patience and was extremely helpful with his valuable suggestions.

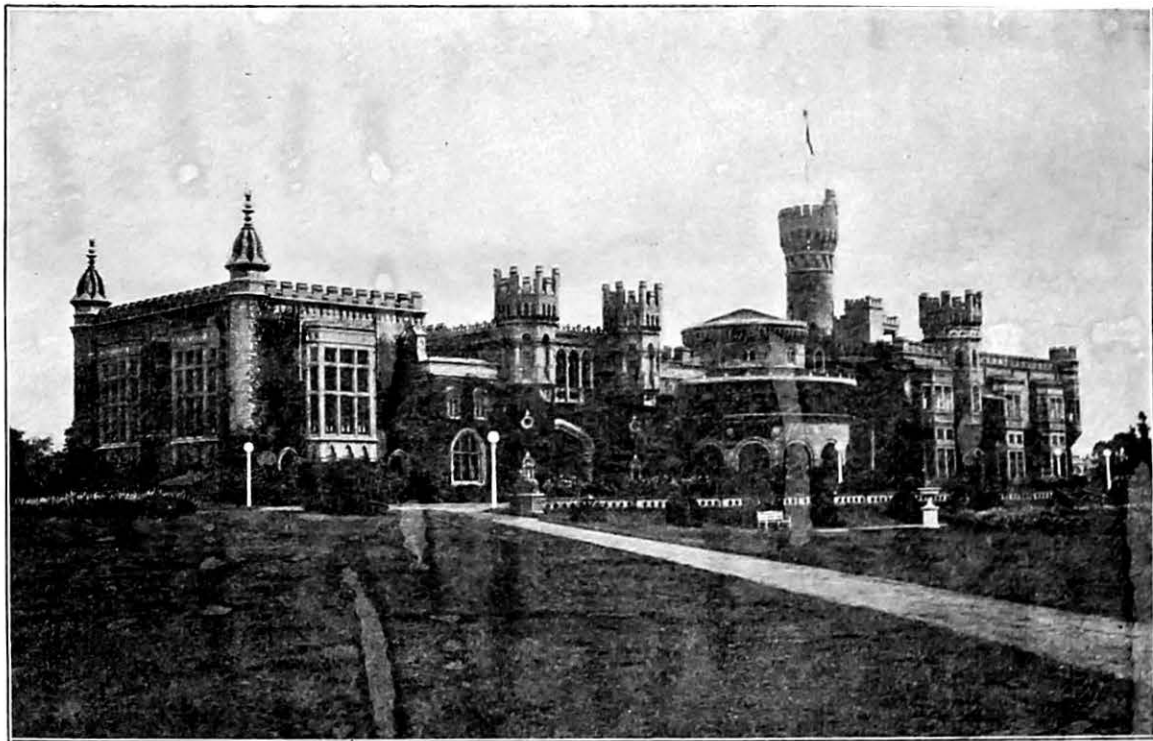
I am grateful to Government for giving me this opportunity for studying the country. I would be failing in my duty if I do not acknowledge at the same time my indebtedness to Mr. M. W. W. M. Yeatts, C.I.E., I.C.S., the Census Commissioner for India, who very readily advised me and guided me at every stage, even after other important duties called him away from the Census Office. The notable departure from the traditional lengthy report to the handy *Essay* is the result of his inspiration and guidance.

I hope that I have made the best use of my opportunities and brought out a publication which will give a good general idea of Mysore and its people and serve as a book of reference for some time to come.

P. H. KRISHNA RAO



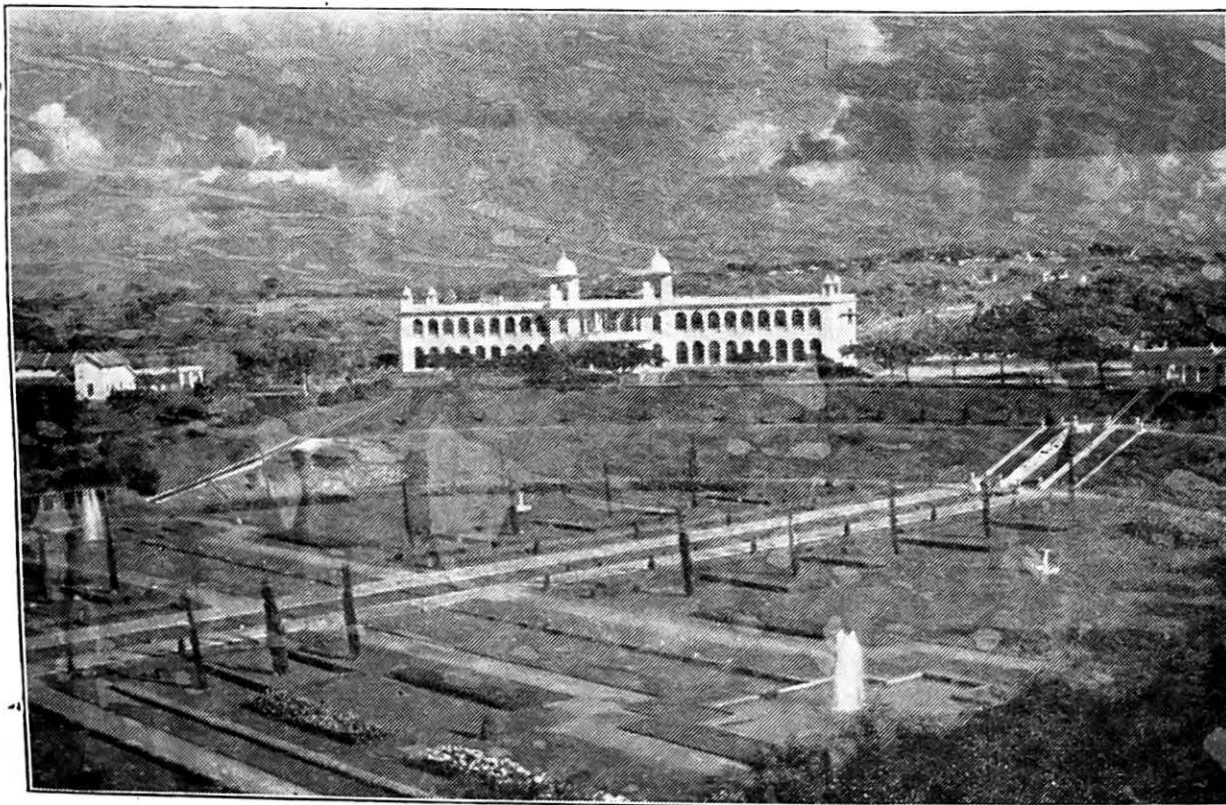
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